

The Honourable President of India
Rashtrapati Bhawan
New Delhi – 110001
September 5th, 2015

Honourable Sir,

We write to you at a time when the film-making community – and the public at large – are deeply perturbed by the ongoing mishandling of affairs at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The undersigned are all recipients of the National Film Awards over the years, bestowed upon us by the office of the President, in recognition of our films and our cinema-related work. We are writing to collectively bring to your attention the following:

1. The FTII is a premier institute, now in its 55th year. Its alumni include some of the best-known names of the Indian film industry, who have brought national and international recognition to Indian cinema.
 2. In June 2015, the Ministry made a series of appointments to the FTII Society. We are dismayed to find among the appointees several people who did not satisfy the minimum criteria of either a 'significant contribution' to, or 'excellence' in, cinema.
 3. We have been particularly disturbed to note that the Ministry had arbitrarily chosen Shri Gajendra Chouhan as the Chairman of the Governing Council, a position earlier held by eminent film-makers like Shri Mrinal Sen, Dr. U.R. Ananthamurthy, Shri Shyam Benegal, Shri Girish Karnad and Shri Adoor Gopalakrishnan, among a host of other eminent appointees. This appears to have been done in haste, sans due diligence or widespread consultations.
 4. Even more disturbing is the inclusion of at least four political appointees, with little or no cinematic achievements of note. These include an appointee against whom a Pune Court has passed strictures, doubting her knowledge of cinema, as well as people with no other significant qualification except their affiliation with the political party in power.
 5. Even as many of us have registered our protest through the media, the students of FTII have been on an indefinite strike protesting these appointments and what they rightly see as an attempt to interfere with the autonomy of the institute. In the 75 days since they commenced their strike, we have been anguished to observe the myriad ways in which the Ministry has mishandled the complex set of issues brought up by the students, the alumni, the film-making community and the wider civil society.
 7. We have been especially disturbed at the victimization of the students, some of whom were subjected to midnight arrests on what prima facie seem to be grossly exaggerated charges including "torture".
 8. We believe that despite the several discussions held between the Ministry and the students, as well as the various attempts at mediation, especially by eminent alumni, no solution seems to be in sight.
- We therefore write to you to express our deep anguish and to urge you to intervene directly. We hope your intervention would not just facilitate an end to the current crisis, but also help address the long-term and festering problems faced by the FTII.

May we request you to:

- Declare FTII as a Centre of Excellence and an autonomous institution.
- Assume charge as the Chancellor.
- Direct the Government of India to delink FTII from the Ministry of I & B and to urgently complete all the necessary formalities to grant it autonomy
- Appoint an independent panel of eminent filmmakers to probe and resolve all the issues arising out of the current crisis as well as to facilitate the immediate resumption of classes and the ongoing diploma film projects.
- Authorize this panel to formally consider all prior reports submitted by various committees – right from the G D Khosla committee (1971) to the P K Nair committee (2011) – and to make final recommendations concerning FTII to your office.

We hope you will accord due weightage to our collective voices and share in our desire to preserve an invaluable institution like the FTII.

We are writing to you as a last resort, before considering any further concerted steps or protests.

The signatories are listed in alphabetical order in two sets, first the alumni from FTII followed by members of the film fraternity.

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|--|---|
| 1. Abhaya Simha , Director | Gubbachigalu, 2008 |
| 2. Abhik Mukhopadhyay , Cinematographer | Patalghar, 2002; Bhalo Theko, 2003; Antaheen, 2008 |
| 3. Abhimanyu Dange , Cinematographer | Kaatal, 2012 |
| 4. Adoor Gopalakrishnan , Director | Padma Shri, 1984; Dada Saheb Phalke Award, 2004; Padma Vibhushan, 2006; 17 National Awards |
| 5. Ajithkumar B. , Editor | Of Confucious, Toy Guns and S- Spots, 1999; Atman, 2002; Naalu Pennungal, 2007 |
| 6. Ajit Singh Rathore , Sound Designer | Kramasha, 2009 |
| 7. Amit Dutta , Director | Ksha Tra Gya, 2004 |
| 8. Amitabh Chakraborty , Editor, Director | Bishar Blues, 2006; Kaal Abhirati, 1990 |
| 9. Amlan Datta , Director, Producer | Chronicle of an amnesiac, 2007; .in for motion, 2009; BOM, 2011 |
| 10. Andrea Inneta , Director | Allah is Great, 2012 |
| 11. Anil Mehta , Cinematographer | Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, 1999 |
| 12. Anish John , Sound Designer | Asha Jaoar Majhe, 2014 |
| 13. Anirban Dasgupta , Sound designer | Shabdo 2012; Nirbashito, 2014 |
| 14. Anjali Shukla , Cinematographer | Kutty Srank, 2010 |
| 15. Anmol Bhawe , Sound Designer | Closer, 2005; Gandha, 2008 |
| 16. Anup Mukhopadhyay , Audiographer | Uttara, 1999 |
| 17. Arghyakamal Mitra , Editor | Abohoman, 2009 |
| 18. Arunaraje Patil , Producer, Director | Mallika Sarabhai, 2000; A New Paradigm, 2002; Behind The Glass Wall, 2014 |
| 19. Arun Khopkar , Director, Producer, Film Scholar | Tobacco Habits and Oral Cancer, 1976; Figures of Thought, 1990; Sanchari, 1994; Colours of Absence, 1995; Rasikapriya, 2000; Narayan Gangaram Surve, 2004 |
| 20. Arunima Sharma , Director | Shyam, Raat, Seher, 2010 |
| 21. Ashok Viswanathan , Director | Sunya Theke Suru, 1992; Kichhu Sanglap Kichhu Prolap, 1996 |
| 22. Avinash Arun , Director, cinematographer | Killa, 2014 |
| 23. Batul Mukhtiar , Director | Kaphal, 2014 |
| 24. Bina Paul , Editor | Mitr, 2002; Unni, 2003 |
| 25. Bishwadeep Chatterjee , Sound Designer | Madras Café, 2014 |
| 26. Chandita Mukherjee , Director | Totanama, 1992; Another Way of Learning, 1995 |
| 27. Charushree Roy , Director, Editor | Chasing the rainbow, 2014 |
| 28. Deepu S Unni , Cinematographer | Gaarud, 2009 |
| 29. Dilip Patnaik , Director | Nilamadhaba, 2008 |
| 30. Dipankar Chaki , Sound Designer | Shabdo 2012; Nirbashito, 2014 |
| 31. Gadadhar Puty , Director | Pooja, Paeen, Phulati, 2007 |
| 32. Gautam Nair , Sound Designer | Ek Do, 2011; Chidhiya Udh, 2013; |

33. **Girish Kasaravalli**, Director

34. **Gurvinder Singh**, Director

35. **Hansa Thapliyal**, Director

36. **Hari Nair**, Cinematographer

37. **Harshvardhan Kulkarni**, Director

38. **Indraneel Lahiri**, Cinematographer

39. **Irene Dhar Malik**, Editor

40. **Jahnu Barua**, Director

41. **Jasmin Kaur**, Director

42. **Jayakrishna Gummadi**, Cinematographer

43. **Kaushal Oza**, Director

44. **Kavin Jagtiani**, Cinematographer

45. **K.G. Jayan**, Cinematographer

46. **K.R. Mohanan**, Director

47. **Kirti Nakhwa**, Producer

48. **Krishnanunni**, Audiographer

49. **Kundan Shah**, Director

50. **Lipika Singh Darai**, Sound Recordist

51. **Madhu Ambat**, Cinematographer

52. **Mahesh Thottathil**, Director

53. **Manisha Dwiwedi**, Director

54. **Manoj Kannothe**, Editor

55. **Manoj Nitharwal**, Director

56. **Manoj Lobo**, Cinematographer

57. **M.P. Sukumaran Nair**, Director

58. **Murali**, Cinematographer

59. **Nihar Samal**, Sound Designer

60. **Nilanjan Dutta**, Director

61. **Nishtha Jain**, Director

62. **Pankaj Purandare**, Director

63. **Pankaj Seal**, Audiographer

64. **Paresh Kamdar**, Editor

65. **P.P. Govindan**,

66. **Prashant Naik**, Editor

67. **Prateek Vats**, Director

68. **Radhakrishnan**, Sound Designer

69. **Rajat Kapoor**, Director

70. **Rajeev Ravi**, Cinematographer

71. **Ranjan Palit**, Cinematographer, Director

72. **Reena Mohan**, Director, Editor

73. **Renu Sawant**, Director

Padma Shri, 2011; Avashesh, 1975;
Ghatashradhdha, 1977; Tabarana Kathe,
1986; Thaaye Saheba, 1997; Kraurya, 1996;
Dweepa, 2002

Anhey Ghorhey Da Daan, 2011

Jee Karta Tha, 1998

Sham's Vision, 1996

Lost & found, 2008

Aamar Katha, Story of Binodini, 2015

Celluloid Man, 2013

Aparoop, 1983; Halodhia Choraye

Bhaodan Khai, 1987; Bonani, 1990;

Firingoti, 1992; Xagoroloi Bohu Door,

1995; The Price of Freedom, 1998; And the

River Flows, 1999; Ride on the Rainbow,

2003; Baandhon, 2012; Ajeyo, 2013

Saanjh, 2004

When This Man Dies, 2007

Vaishnav Jan Toh: 2009, Afterglow: 2012

Mandrake Mandrake, 2013

18 Elephants- 3 Monologues, 2003

Purushartham, 1987; Swaroopam, 1992;

Lost & Found, 2008

Anandaram: 1987, Piravi: 1988,

Desadanam: 1996

Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron, 1984

Gaarud, 2009; A Tree, A Man, A Sea, 2012;

Kankee O Saapo, 2013

Adi Sankaracharya, 1984; Sringaram, 2006;

Adaminte Makan Abu, 2010

Death of a Prodigal Son, 1994

Avchetan, 2003

Stations, 2008

Seek & Hide, 2015

Girni, 2005

Sayanam, 2001; Drishtantham, 2007

Shyam, Raat, Seher, 2010

Tatvam Asi, 1997;

Bhanga Gara: 2007

Gulaabi Gang, 2014

Dwija, 2004

Matir Bhinar, 1998

Rasayatra, 1994

Malbarriyum Pattunoolam, 1992

Harvest of Hunger, 2004

Kal 15 August Dukaan Band Rahegi, 2010

Anayam Resulam, 2013

Tarana, 1995; Hynothesis, 1998;

Raghu Romeo, 2004

Liar's Dice, 2013

Voices from Baliapal, 1989; In the Forest

Hangs the Bridge, 1998; Kaya Pooch Maya

Se, 2003; In Camera, 2009

Kamlabai 1991; In The Forest Hangs a

Bridge, 1998

Airawat : 2011, Aranyak : 2014

74. **Resul Pookutty**, Sound Designer
 75. **Saeed Mirza**, Director,
 76. **Saikat S Ray**, Editor
 77. **Sanjiv Shah**, Editor
 78. **Sanju Surendran**, Director
 79. **Sankalp Meshram**, Editor, Director

80. **Santosh Sivan**, Cinematographer, Director, Producer

81. **Satheesh P.M.**, Sound Designer
 82. **Satya Rai Nagpaul**, Cinematographer
 83. **Shabnam Sukhdev**, Director
 84. **Shaji N. Karun**, Cinematographer, Director

85. **Shanker Raman**, Cinematographer, Producer
 86. **Sivaprasad**
 87. **Sourav Sarangi**, Director

88. **Subash Sahoo**, Sound Engineer and Designer
 89. **Sudhakar Reddy**, Director-Cinematographer

90. **Sudheer Palsane**, Cinematographer
 91. **Sunil Sukhtankar**,
 92. **Sunny Joseph**, Director
 93. **Susant Misra**, Director

94. **Tathagata Singha**, Director
 95. **Umesh Kulkarni**, Director

96. **Unni Vijayan**, Director
 97. **Venu**, Cinematographer, Director

98. **Virendra Saini**, Cinematographer, Director

99. **Vivek**, Sound Designer
 100. **V.R. Gopinath**,

Padma Shri, 2010; KeralavarmPazhissiraja, 2009

Mohan Joshi Hazar Ho, 1984; Naseem, 1996
 Hope Dies Last In War, 2007

Mirch Masala, 1985

Kapila, 2014

Lokpriya, 2000; Chhutkan Ki Mahabharat, 2005; Lasya Kavya- The world of Alarmel Valli, 2012

Story of Tiblu, 1988; Mohiniyattam, 1991; Perumthachan, 1991; Halo, 1996; Kala Paani, 1996; Iruvar, 1998; Malli, 1998; The Terrorist, 1998; Dil Se, 1999; Navarasa, 2004; Prarambha, 2008; Indian Rupee, 2011 Kumar Talkies, 1999

Anhey Ghorhey Da Daan, 2011

The Last Adieu, 2013

Thampu, 1979; Piravi, 1989; Swaham, 1995; Sham's Vision, 1997; Vanaprastham, 1999; Kutty Srank, 2009

Frozen, 2007; Harud, 2012

Ormayude Theerangalil

Bilal, 2009; Char: The No-Man's Island, 2012

Omkara, 2007; Kaminey, 2010

Ek Akaash, 2003

Koyad, 2012

Doghi:1996,Devrai:2004

Clown and Dog, 1984

Indradhanura Chhaai, 1994; Biswaprakash, 2000

Ekti Kaktaliyo Galpo, 2009

Girni:2004,Three of us :2008,Deool:2011

Lessons in Forgetting, 2012

Amma Ariyan, 1986; Miss Beatty's Children, 1992; Ponthan Mada, 1993; Daya, 1998

Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro, 1990; Kabhi Paas Kabhi Fail, 1999

Ksha Tra Gya, 2004

Kooduthal Paal Venamenkil:1983,

Unnikuttanu Joli Kitti:1990

SIGNATORIES FROM THE FILM FRATERNITY

101. **Aditya Bikram Sengupta**
 102. **Anand Patwardhan**, Director
 103. **Anindya Chattopadhyay**, lyricist
 104. **Anirban Dasgupta**
 105. **Aniruddha RoyChowdhury**, Producer
 106. **Anjali Menon**, Dialogue writer
 107. **Anjan Dutt**, Music director
 108. **Anwar Rasheed**, best Popular film

Asha Jawar Majhe, 2014

Bombay Our City, 1984

Antaheen, 2008

Shabdo, 2012; Nirbhashito, 2014

Anuranan, 2007; Antaheen, 2008

Ustad Hotel, 2012

Ranjana Aami Aar Ashbo, 2011

Ustad Hotel, 2012

109. **Aparna Sen**
110. **Asok Dasgupta**, Cinematographer
111. **Ashim Ahluwalia**, Director
112. **Ayan Bhattacharya**, audiographer
113. **Buddhadeb Dasgupta**, Producer, Director
114. **Chandramala Bhattacharya**, producer
115. **C.S.Venkateswaran**, Critic, Director
116. **Dibakar Banerjee**, Director
117. **Dipankar Chaki**, Sound Designer
118. **G.P.Ramachandran**, Critic
119. **Gayatri Chatterjee**, Film Scholar
120. **Geetanjali Thapa**, Actress
121. **I.Shanmugasadas**, Critic
122. **Iram Ghufuran**, Director, Editor
123. **Joshy Mathew**, Producer
124. **Jayaraj**, Director, Producer
125. **Kamal**
126. **Kavitha Lankesh**, Director
127. **M.Manikandan**, director
128. **Madhu Iravankara**, writer
129. **Malay Bhattacharya**, Director
130. **Mani Ratnam**
131. **Nagraj Manjule**, director
132. **Nandan Saxena**, Director
133. **Neel Dutt**, music Director
134. **Nilanjan Bhattacharya**, Producer
135. **Nirmal Chander**, Director
- 36, Chowringhee Lane, 1981; Paroma, 1984; Yugant, 1995; Paromitar Ek din, 2000; Mr. and Mrs. Iyer, 2001; 15, Park Avenue, 2005 The Trail, 1998 John and Jane, 2007; Miss Lovely, 2014 Tender is the night, 2014 Bagh Bahadur, 1989 Charachar, 1983 Lal Darja, 1997 Mondo Meyer Upakhyam, 2002 Kaalpurush, 2008 Dooratwa, 1978 Phera, 1987 Tahader Katha, 1993 A Painter of Eloquent Silence: Ganesh Pyne, 1998 Uttara, 2000 Swapner Din, 2005 Kahini, 1996 Best Critic, 2002, 2009; Pakarnnattam, 1995 Khosla Ka Ghosla, 2007, Oye Lucky, Lucky Oye, 2009 Shabdo, 2012; Nirbhashito, 2014 Best Critic, 2006 Awara, 1993 Liars Dice, 2013 1999 There is Something in the Air, 2011 Black Forest Kaliyattam, 1997 Vellapokkathil – The Deluge, 2007 Vellapokkathil – The Deluge, 2007 Desadanam, 1996 Shantham, 2000 Daivanamathil, 2005 Ottal, 2014 Perumazhakkalam, 2004 Karutha Pakshikal, 2006; Celluloid, 2012 Deeveri, 2000; Preethi, Prema, Pranya, 2004 Kakka Muttai, 2014 1999, best book on cinema Kahini, 1996 Mouna Ragam, 1986 Geethanjali, 1989 Anjali, 1990 Roja, 1992 Bombay, 1995 Kannathil Muthamittal Fandry, 2013 Cotton for my shroud 2011; Candles in the wind, 2013, I cannot give you my Forest, 2014 Ranjana Aami Aar Ashbo, 2011 Under This Sun, 2005; Johar: Welcome to our World Dreaming Tajmahal, 2012

136. **Parthapratin Barman**, sound designer
 137. **Pradip Krishen**, Director
138. **Priyanandan**, Producer
 139. **Pradipto Bhattacharya**, producer
 140. **Rajeev Nath**, Director
 141. **Revathi**, Actress, Producer
142. **Rakesh Sharma**, Director
 143. **Ranjith**, Producer
144. **Ranajit Ray**, director
 145. **Rinku R. Thomas**, Director
 146. **Sabarni Das**, Costume Designer
 147. **Salim Ahmed**, Producer
 148. **Sabu Cyril**, production designer
149. **Sanjay Kak**, Director
 150. **Sarbajit Sen**, producer
 151. **Sathyan Anthikkad**
 152. **Sibi Malayil**, Producer
153. **Shajith Koyeri**, Sound Designer
 154. **Sidhartha Siva**, Director
 155. **Somnath Gupta**, Director
 156. **Sreekar Prasad**, Editor
157. **Srijit Mukherjee**, Director, Screen play writer
 158. **Subhodeep Sengupta**, sound designer
 159. **Suja Kulangara**
 160. **Sudipta Chakraborty**, Actress
 161. **Sunil Shanbag**, Producer
 162. **Supriyo Sen**, Producer
163. **T.V.Chandran**, Producer
164. **T.K.Rajeevkumar**, Producer
 165. **Tarun Bhartiya**, Editor
 166. **V.K.Joseph**, Critic
 167. **Veenu Bhushan Viad**, Director
- Bishar Blues, 2008
 In Which Annie Gives It Those ones, 1989;
 Electric Moon, 1992
 Pulijanmam, 2006
 Bakita Byaktigoto, 2013
 Janani, 1998
 Thevar Magan, 1992; Mitr, My Friend,
 2002; Red Building Where the Sun Sets,
 2011
 Final Solution, 2006
 Spirit, 2012
 Thirakkatha, 2008
 Indian Rupee, 2011
 Documentation of clay images of Kumartuli
 Timbaktu, 2012
 Jatishwar, 2010
 Adaminte Makan Abu, 2011
 Thenmavin Kombath, 1994; Kaalapani,
 1995; Om Shanti Om, 2007; Enthiran, 2010
 In the Forest Hangs a Bridge, 1999
 Painting in Time, 1995
 Kochu Kochu Santhoshangal, 2001
 Kanakkinavu, 1997; Aakasadoothu, 1994;
 Doore Doore Koodu Koottam, 1987
 Omkara, 2006
 101 Chodyangal, 2013; Ain, 2014
 Aami Aadu, 2011
 Raakh, 1989
 Rag Birag, 1997
 Nauka Caritramu, 1997
 The Terrorist, 1998
 Vaanaprastham, 2000
 Kannathil Muthamittal, 2002
 Kutty Srank; Kaminey
 Keralavarma Pazhassiraja
 Chotushkone, 2014
 Chitrasutram, 2010
 An encounter with a life living, 2004
 Bariwali, 2000
 Maihar Raag, 1994
 Nest, 2000; Way Back Home, 2003; Hope
 Dies Last in War, 2007
 Ponthan Mada, 1993; Ormakal
 Undayirikkanam, 1995; Mangamma, 1997;
 Dany, 2001; Paadam Onnu: Oru Vilapam,
 2003; Aadum Koothu, 2005
 Jalamarmaram, 2000
 In Camera, 2010
 Best Critic, 2007
 Eka Gacha, Eka Mainsha, Eka Samudra,
 2012